

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in February was 202,382 metric tons (t), according to data reported to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,979 t, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month but 11% below the rate for February 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased significantly from 76.625 cents per pound in January to 81.500 cents per pound in February, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased several times during the month of February. The price range began the month at 58.5–60 cents per pound. On February 3, the price range increased to 59–61 cents per pound; on February 10, 60–62 cents per pound; on February 17, 61.5–63.5 cents per pound; on February 19, 62–64 cents per pound; and finally, on February 24, the price range

increased to 62.5–64.5 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased marginally in March to 81.563 cents per pound. On March 2, the American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased and narrowed to 64–65 cents per pound before beginning a downward slide that continued through the end of the month. On March 4, the price range decreased to 62–63 cents per pound; on March 9, 61–62.5 cents per pound; on March 15, 60.5–62 cents per pound, and on March 23, the price range decreased to 60–61 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ^p	2,703	1,770	1,160 ^r	2,930 ^r	2,870	822	3,690	9,320 ^r	1,400 ^r
2003:									
February	220	153	88	241	246	64	310	771	1,520 ^r
March	238	143	89	232	350	71	421	891	1,530 ^r
April	225	143	99	242	202	69	272	739	1,470 ^r
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,530 ^r
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,480 ^r
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,480 ^r
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,470 ^r
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400 ^r
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380 ^r
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390 ^r
December	221	139	86 ^r	226	243	64	306	753 ^r	1,400 ^r
January-February	462	305	184	489	461	133	594	1,550	1,520
2004:									
January	216	157 ^r	85 ^r	242 ^r	211	64	274	733	1,430
February	202	157	85	242	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-February	418	314	170	484	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Data series from the Aluminum Association Inc. has been changed. Inventory levels now reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2003 ^P	1,660	1,230	859 ^r	741 ^r	897 ^r	836 ^r	131 ^r	118 ^r	6	6	3,550 ^r	2,930 ^r
2003:												
February	147	109	66	57	68	64	11	10	(2)	(2)	293	241
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	10	9	1	1	282	232
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	1	1	294	242
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314 ^r	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76 ^r	71 ^r	10	9	(2)	(2)	274 ^r	226
January-February	294	218	136	117	140	131	23	21	1	1	594	489
2004:												
January	133 ^r	98 ^r	59	51	89	83 ^r	11	10	(2)	(2)	292 ^r	242 ^r
February	133	98	58	50	90	84	11	10	1	1	292	242
January-February	266	196	117	101	179	167	22	20	1	1	584	484

^PPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN FEBRUARY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	111,000	133,000	81,700	98,000
Integrated aluminum companies	57,700	57,700	49,800	49,800
Independent mill fabricators	74,900	89,900	70,100	84,100
Foundries	9,040	10,800	8,120	9,750
Other consumers	509	610	509	610
Total	253,000	292,000	210,000	242,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	20,200 ^r	86,200	88,600	17,800	176,000	177,000
Can stock clippings	2,380	18,600	18,300	2,660	39,300	38,700
Other clippings	4,850 ^r	8,240	8,590	4,500	16,300	16,900
Borings and turnings	5,140 ^r	17,100	17,000	5,170	33,800	33,600
Dross and skimmings	2,670	31,900	31,900	2,670	63,200	63,200
Total new scrap	35,200 ^r	162,000	164,000	32,800	328,000	329,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,400 ^r	30,700	30,600	11,500	62,100	62,400
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,750 ^r	1,440	1,670	1,520	3,540	3,570
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	14,500	45,000	46,100	13,400	89,700	90,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,680 ^r	9,710	9,710	2,680	18,900	19,400
Total old scrap	30,400 ^r	86,800	88,100	29,100	174,000	176,000
Sweated pig	147	878	888	137	1,770	1,770
Total all classes	65,700 ^r	250,000	253,000	62,000	504,000	507,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	February				January-February ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,630 ^r	1,790	2,060	3,360	3,750	3,940
380 and variations	6,390 ^r	20,600	20,500	6,490	41,000	41,200
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,050	4,090	4,040	2,100	8,120	8,090
No. 319 and variations	4,750 ^r	8,610	8,630	4,720	17,200	17,300
F-132 alloy and variations	1,510	2,570	2,630	1,450	5,420	5,360
Al-Zn alloys	40	75	75	40	149	149
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	336	336
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	382	382
Other ⁴	4,130	6,930	7,280	3,790	14,100	15,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,100	17,300	17,100	10,300	34,900	34,600
Total all alloys	32,700 ^r	62,300	62,700	32,300	125,000	126,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	7,650	XX	XX	15,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,120	XX	XX	6,250	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	559	XX	XX	1,120	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	50,900	XX	XX	103,000	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous month(s).

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Argentina	2,850	71	--	2,920
Australia	4,580	9	--	4,590
Bahrain	--	1,030	--	1,030
Belgium	20	876	--	896
Brazil	9,230	1,320	--	10,600
Canada	134,000	34,200	23,900	192,000
China	49	3,350	77	3,470
France	125	497	16	638
Germany	2,770	4,820	9	7,610
Hungary	--	154	--	154
Italy	--	259	--	259
Japan	18	771	4	793
Korea, Republic of	7	427	25	459
Mexico	602	1,530	8,960	11,100
Netherlands	57	169	--	225
Norway	126	16	--	141
Russia	39,100	3,180	963	43,200
South Africa	1,500	2,930	--	4,430
Spain	--	133	--	133
Sweden	--	159	--	159
Switzerland	--	90	--	90
United Arab Emirates	3,900	--	--	3,900
United Kingdom	89	132	409	630
Venezuela	8,590	1,510	1,930	12,000
Other	3,100	6,340	3,410	12,800
Total	211,000	63,900	39,700	314,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS FOR OF ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Scrap	Total
Australia	2	182	4	188
Belgium	19	375	--	394
Brazil	2	2,320	(2)	2,330
Canada	9,440	39,000	10,300	58,700
China	18	2,480	23,900	26,400
Czech Republic	--	5	--	5
Dominican Republic	--	25	--	25
France	16	685	--	700
Germany	42	398	62	502
Hong Kong	11	119	1,580	1,710
India	--	29	40	70
Israel	7	164	2	173
Italy	4	145	--	148
Japan	291	471	1,720	2,480
Korea, Republic of	44	1,880	2,530	4,450
Malaysia	--	113	--	113
Mexico	7,870	10,000	3,720	21,600
Netherlands	9	56	18	84
Russia	(2)	13	--	14
Saudi Arabia	--	192	--	192
Singapore	7	119	--	126
Spain	12	50	--	62
Sweden	--	1	--	1
Taiwan	40	325	1,500	1,860
Thailand	--	257	56	313
Ukraine	--	(2)	--	(2)
United Kingdom	166	588	20	774
Venezuela	--	93	--	93
Other	177	1,560	1,080	2,820
Total	18,200	61,600	46,500	126,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.